

Application Serial No. 10/500,814
Reply to Office Action of October 31, 2007

PATENT
Docket: CU-3809

et al. (U.S. 5,327,890). Claims 11-19 are rejected in further view of Wilk et al. (U.S. 2005/0020918). The Applicant respectfully disagrees with and traverses these rejections.

The rejection relies upon McHale as disclosing the claimed feature of the therapeutic ultrasound transducer comprising a probe having the transmitter element arranged in the rear portion which is thermally insulated, and which does not heat the front portion during operation. The Applicant disagrees with this assessment of the prior art.

The rejection relies upon Figure 4 of McHale as teaching the claimed feature. In Figure 4, the ultrasound head 5 is shown as a rectangular black-colored shape. Although the lead line from reference numeral 5 is directed towards the rear of this black-colored shape, the entire rectangular shape comprises the ultrasound head, not just the rear portion thereof. There is not a separate front portion that is thermally insulated from the ultrasound head.

The insulation ring 4 circumferentially surrounds the ultrasound head 5, and does not separate the rear portion and the front portion of the ultrasound head as the rejection indicates. This is clear from the disclosure in column 35, lines 8-19, which indicates that the insulation ring 4 consists of a material which absorbs ultrasound and which insulates the electrodes 2 from short circuit discharge. In other words, the purpose of the ring is to provide electrical insulation between the electrodes 2 and the ultrasound head 5, and not to provide thermal insulation in the ultrasound head.

Furthermore, the definition of the insulation ring 4 as being a ring indicates that the insulation is provided circumferentially around the ultrasound head 5, and not through the ultrasound head 5.

Additionally, the Applicant can find no disclosure in McHale for the ultrasound head being located at a rear portion separate from a front portion of the probe, or that the ultrasound head 5 is configured in any way to not heat the front portion of the probe during operation.

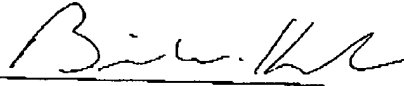
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For at least these reasons, the Applicant considers that the claimed invention is not disclosed by or obvious from the cited prior art references.

In light of the foregoing response, all the outstanding objections and rejections are considered overcome. Applicant respectfully submits that this application should now be in condition for allowance and respectfully requests favorable consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date

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